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PRESS CLIPPINGS

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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #4

(Management of Productive, Life-Sustaining Natural Resources Strengthened)

6 Friday, September 23, 2005



Firing Line
Ramon Ongchua Quin, Jr.

NFA warns retailers vs selling 'old stocks' of NFA rice to public!

God speaks top those who have time to listen and He listens to those who have time to pray. Behold God's glory on this beautiful morning! (Topnotch Lawyer Vic Solis). "Let it be known to you, O King, that we do not serve your gods, nor we worship the gold image which you have set up." (Daniel 3:18). Please pause for a while and say a prayer for eternal PEACE to reign in La Hermosa de Zamboanga and the whole world.

Several avid Firing Line readers have sharply reacted to Firing Line column this week with regards to the alleged NFA rice smuggling.

As a result of the various issues and concerns discussed on the alleged NFA rice, our regional and provincial offices of the grains authority has warned retailers and wholesalers in the city against the sale of "old" stock rice or mixing the government cereal with commercial quality stocks to

For the information of the general public, "expired" rice can only be detected after cooking and spoils easily within the day or hours only.

Provincial Manager Lawama has warned retailers against selling old NFA rice to the general public and sanctions will be imposed against these rice retailers and wholesalers.

It can be recalled that the NFA sold several thousands of bags of rice of its six-month old rice stocks to dealers and wholesalers through public bidding.

However, these stocks of rice that were already considered "old stocks," are only intended for use as animal feeds.

However, some unscrupulous traders and businessmen mix them with a commercial variety which make them earn bigger profit since they are already considered as commercial rice at a commercial rate.

Xxx
Consumers cannot detect the old stocks of rice

ZAMBOANGA Today

AMORE set to energize 26 barangays in Sulu

JOLO, SULU - The provincial government here signed a memorandum of agreement with the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy (AMORE), signifying its support for the project implementation in the province.

AMORE is a rural electrification agency project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Mirant Philippines, the countries leading power producer, and implemented by Winrock International. Also AMORE counts the DOE and the ARMM as its partners.

To date, AMORE has already energized 25 barangays in the municipalities of Tongkil, Siasi and Parang. The program is set to energize another 26 barangays in four municipalities of Sulu. It would benefit 780 households or an approximate 4,680 individuals. The program supports Sulu's executive and legislative agenda of bringing the province out of being a war zone into an economic zone.


Aside from the direct aid of renewable energy, AMORE is set to implement added environmental projects and distance learning education using renewable energy through Photo-voltaic systems.

Engr. Miralam C. Tillah III, AMORE's BASULTA Area Manager signed the MOU in behalf of AMORE's Chief-Of-Party, Rodrigo Cabrera, Sulu Vice Governor. Hja. Nur-ana Sahidulla and Engr. Luman Omar, Provincial Government's Officer-in-charge, signed in behalf of Benjamin Loong, Sulu Governor.

Incidentally, the provincial government of Sulu awarded Winrock-AMORE program a plaque of appreciation in recognition of its support to the LGU's executive and legislative agenda for peace and development. The provincial government believes that rural electrification of AMORE will improve the socio-economic conditions of Sulu residents.

Also given honorary citation was AMORE BASULTA (Basilan-Sulu-Tawi-Tawi) Area Manager, Engr. Miralam C. Tillah III.

Meantime, the municipality of Panglima Sugala, Tawi-Tawi also cited AMORE Basulta Office for its lasting contribution to energy development program on 26 August 2005, during its 46th Municipal Founding Anniversary.



AMORE personnel install photo voltaic system in one of the houses in Kutah Sayrap, Parang, Sulu.

(Source: Zamboanga Today, 9/23/05)